To: Edgar Tatro

From: Bill Cheslock

Re: Houston Police Department's Investigation of Three Tramps in Dealey Plaza

Date: November 16, 1991, JFK Symposium, Dallas Texas

John Craig - Homicide Division, Houston D.P. He gave a description of the tramps, plus a little background of each:

Charles Frederick Rogers - Alias "Montoya" and "Rojas." Worked for the C IA and was a physicist.

Chuck Harrelson- Taller tramp. John Craig of the Houston P.D. knows Harrelson, as the latter's brother Claude worked for the detective.

Chauncey Holt- Has come forward, and given himself up to Houston Police. He says he is the older tramp in the pictures. He tried to stay out of pictures taken of them by standing in back of the other t wo tramps. He even made funny faces to make identification difficult. Holt has given eight hours of video deposition. John Craig believes Holt to be for real. Thes older tramp is now 70 years old, considered a genius, worked for the CIA, Organized Crime, was a master document forger, and was once tried for assassination, but acquitted. Holt said that, in addition to getting old and wishing to tell the truth, he is also very tired of being mistaken for E. Howard Hunt. Detective Craig believes that this can be a major break in the JFK case if Holt is for real. Finally, Chauncey Holt was willing to come to the Symposium, and tell his story, if heavy security could be guaranteed. This could not be guaranteed, and he thus refused to come to Dallas.

Next in his presention, Detective Craig introduced Lois Gibson, who works for the Houston P.D. as a forensic artist. In addition, she graduated from the F.B.I. school for forensic artistry, and has worked for the Bureau for the past ten years. She has one hundred and fifty cases pending at the moment, and has been involved in thousands of cases requiring certified court forensic artists.

The third individual panelist, Phil Rogers, gave a biographical sketch of each of the three tramps;

Charles Frederick Rogers- Born 1921, Houston, Texas. In 1965, he butchered his parents and preserved them in a refrigerator after cutting them to pieces. When friends started to get suspicious, they called police to the Rogers' house. Charles, living in the house all this time, was able to flee out the back, and vanished. Found in the house, besides the bodies in the refrigerator, was a sophisticated short wave set connected to an antenna, similar to those used by intelligence agents. He has had no job since 1957, but was always well dressed. He had a pilot's license, and flew for Air America. He had numerous post office boxes under assumed names.

Panelist Rogers stated that the Houston P.D. requested the FBI to put Frederick Rogers into the national computer system (N.C.I.C.). Just recently, the Houston P.D. discovered

that the FBI originally never fulfilled that request, and has since refused subsequent requests by the Houston P.D. to put Charles Frederick Rogers into the computer. Houston police officials find this reluctance by the FBI to be very strange, to say the least. Besides being employed the CIA, Rogers attended the University of Houston as a physics major, is a linguist, was in the Civil Air Patrol in the 1950's and held a similar position to that of David Ferrie, worked as a seismologist in Canada, was declared legally dead in 1975, but the Houston P.D. believes that he is now living in Central America. Police officials believe that his parents saw or heard something they should not have in 1965, and paid for their mistake with their lives.

Charles Harrelson- Born in Huntsville, Texas. While living in California, he was presented with the "Salesman of the Year" award for selling books. He then turned to a life of crime, and in 1968, was charged with murder. With the murder of Federal Judge Wood, he was on the run from police authorities, and when finally cornered in El Paso in a six hour standoff, admitted to being in Dealey Plaza, and killing President Kennedy. He later retracted this statement, saying that he was high on cocaine. He is now in the Marion, Illinois institution for murdering Judge Wood.

Chauncey Holt- Born 1921 in Kentucky. Known to have artistic talent, was in the Air Force and was court martialed while serving in that armed forces branch. Knew hit man for the Detroit mob named Bob Zowick. Holt was an accountant for mobster Meyer Lansky in Miami, and was a member of the International Rescue Committee, which was a CIA group.

CHAUNCEY HOLT'S STORY

Holt admitted to printing Lee Harvey Oswald's Fair Play for Cuba leaflets while in California. He admitted to being on the street corner with Oswald in New Orleans when the staged skirmish went on with Anti Castro Cubans. Others present were Frank Belcher, and Leroy Young, shown in the picture. Holt says that when he realized the photo was being taken, he started walking away. One anecdote Holt added to this New Orleans staged show was that they had to talk Oswald into going through with it, as he got cold feet as the time neared.

Forensic artist Lois Gibson studied the New Orleans picture, and agrees that it is indeed Chauncey Holt. She testified that the skull shape, ears, shoulders, elbows all fit the known photos of Holt. The photo she used was a still made by the television station crew in New Orleans in August 1963. She also forensically connected Holt with the older tramp in the Dealey Plaza photos taken on the day of the assassination. She has successfully linked his nasal fold, nose, chin intersections, and ears with known photos of him and with the Dealey Plaza photos of the tramps.

Lois Gibson used her forensic expertise on photos of Charles Harrelson, as Holt identified him as being one of the tramps. She compared known photos of Harrelson with the Dealey Plaza tall tramp, and she concluded that it is indeed Charles Harrelson in the tramp photo. She came to this conclusion because of exact profile, wrinkles, mouth distance from the chin,

mouth distance from the chin bone, nose, and ears. In addition she has concluded that Harrelson's shaving habits are the same in both photos, and his side burns are only one millimeter different from a mug shot of ten years ago. Finally, she states that a photo of an opposite face profile examined by her shows a mirror image of Charles Harrelson. Wryly, she told the hushed audience that he is smiling in the tramp photo.

The third tramp identified by Holt is Charles Frederick Rogers, also known as "Montoya" and "Rojas." At this point, the audience was told that Rogers fled his parents' home as police arrived, and left his pistol in his room. There is reason to believe that it was a CIA issued pistol. Forensic artist Gibson then continued with her analysis of the third tramp. It was very difficult finding photos of Rogers, as he was very careful not to have many left around. However, Houston Police were able to go back to his high school year book of 1939-'40 and his college picture taken at Sam Houston State, and use these to compare with the tramp photos. Gibson concluded the following, after analyzing the photos: the subject's nose, ears shape, and mouth are identical. Conclusive for Gibson, however, are: exact hair wave, nose shape is exact, eye sockets are exact, and shadows formed by the inside of his ears are exact. Finally, she detects an unusual gape in the walk of the tramp Holt says is Rogers. Her conclusion is that the third tramp in the photo is indeed Charles Frederick Rogers. An anecdote told to the audience revealed the fact that Rogers' father worked as a bookie for none other than Carlos Marcello, in the Houston area.

Another twist to this segment of the story is told to us by John Craig. It is known that David Ferrie drove a few hundred miles through a storm to go "skating" at Winterland Park. The manager of the rink told Houston Police that Charles Frederick Rogers used that rink for phone calls and meetings all the time. We now have Ferrie and Rogers linked to at least two activities; "skating" and the Civil Air Patrol.

The panel, at this point, relayed Holt"s account of his and the other tramps' activities in Dealey Plaza on Novembember 22, 1963. First of all, he admitted that it was he who prepared the phony Secret Service credentials for the bogus men around the grassy knoll, while he was in Los Angelos. While in Dealey Plaza, one of the tramps came up to him and said,"Hi I'm Chuck Harrelson," prior to the assassination. Holt said that he was driving around the parking lot in back of the knoll in a station wagon from Arizona, with two other men known as Nicoletti and Nocera (sic?). Holt testified that he did not see the actual assassination, but heard the shots from the rear of the TSBD. His instructions were to meet the other tramps in the railroad yard and hide in the ninth box car from the engine. This they did, but were soon caught by police and were questioned outside of the box car. Holt, who had a nose bleed and stuffed kleenex up his nostrils to stop the bleeding, testified that he and the other two tramps presented phony Tax and Treasury Department credentials, which Holt said he made up with the bogus Secret Service credentials, to the police officers. Holt added that he told the police they were working under cover. The Dallas police officers, relaxing at this point,

told the tramps that they had to bring them in anyway for questioning. This could explain why the police officers didn't cuff them, and permitted them to walk in a casual manner to the police building.

Once inside, the police officers, according to Holt, called in Will Fritz and FBI agent Shanklin. Again, Holt and the two other tramps showed their phony credentials, and , according to Holt, Shanklin let them go without any further procedures. Finally, Holt said that he was driven to Red Bird Air Port by Jim Braden, and his final destination found him in South America.

At this point, there was a question and answer period. I went to the microphone, and asked the panel three questions: 1) How did Holt know the Secret Service's color of the day for credentials? Answer: He couldn't find out until the very last minute. 2) How did Holt get into the rear parking area, if it was secured for two hours before the assassination? Answer: Holt told them that he was given a key to get in the parking area. 3) Did Holt tell them what them what they were to do if they weren't caught in the box car by police? Answer: Still go to the Red Bird Air Port.

Chauncey Holt reiterates his statement that he was behind the TSBD when shots were fired at the presidential limousine. He also submitted in his testimony that he truly believes that he was put out back in the rail road yard to be used as a potential patsy, if it didn't work out with Oswald for one reason or another.